

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 L-03 AID-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 /127 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:EWGNEHM:GK

EXT. 20653 8/13/73

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S/NM:HRWELLMAN (INFO)

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NEA/P:RJTHURMAN

----- 082938

R 141350Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 160446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJ: DRUG SCENE IN NEPAL

1. NEW YORK TIMES ON AUG 13 CARRIED ARTICLE DATED

KATHMANDU BY BERNARD WEINRAUB ENTITLED:

"THE DRUG SCENE IN
NEPAL IS, LIKE, FADING."

2. ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT "AFTER YEARS AS THE VIRTUAL
CAPITAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL HIPPIE CIRCUIT, KATHMANDU HAS
BECOME UPTIGHT. DECISION...TO CLOSE CAPITAL'S DRUG
BAZAAR, AND BAN SALE OF MARIJUANA, HASHISH AND HARD DRUGS,
HAS EVOKED DISTRESS AND UNEASE AMONG 'TRAVELERS' FROM
WEST." ARTICLE CLAIMS PRICE OF HASHISH HAS DOUBLED FROM
LESS THAN DOLS 30 A POUND TO DOLS 60 ON BLACK MARKET.

3. WEINRAUB CLAIMS GON TOOK ACTION FOR TWO REASONS: 1)

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INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AND 2) EFFECT ON NEPALI YOUTHS. ON

FORMER HE QUOTES FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI, "IT IS A QUESTION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. WE KNOW THERE'S MUCH CONCERN ABOUT NARCOTICS." HE ALSO QUOTES CHIRAN S. THAPA, DESCRIBED AS "A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF KING," AS OBSERVING THAT SALE OF NARCOTICS "WAS NOT USEFUL" TO NEPAL "AND DECISION WAS TAKEN TO STOP IT." WEINRAUB SAYS THAT "BEYOND THIS--AND AMID INDICATIONS THAT BOTH UN AND U.S. HAD PRESSED NEPAL TO BAN NARCOTICS SALES--THERE WAS DEEPENING CONCERN THAT WESTERN INFLUX HAD INFLUENCED NEPALI YOUTHS." HE QUOTES MATRIBHUMI WEEKLY.

4. IN PREDICTING FUTURE WEINRAUB NOTES THAT "ALTHOUGH SMOKING DOPE REMAINS COMMON--AND FINDING HASHISH IS NOW ABOUT AS DIFFICULT AS FINDING A HOT DOG AT YANKEE STADIUM--THE HIPPIES ARE QUIETLY ALARMED BECAUSE NEW GOVERNMENT EDICT PLAINLY INDICATES THAT NEPAL IS TURNING TOUGH ON NARCOTICS." (COMMENT: WE GOT HIS POINT, BUT YOU CAN SEE WEINRAUB HAS NOT TRIED TO BUY A HOT DOG AT YANKEE STADIUM RECENTLY) WEINRAUB QUOTES SEVERAL HIPPIES AND ONE "56-YEAR-OLD NEPALI" AS SAYING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GON TO TAKE THIS ACTION. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT AT THIS POINT EFFECTIVENESS OF GON MOVES REMAINS UNCERTAIN AND THAT IT TOO EARLY TO PREDICT LONG-TERM EFFECT.

5. ARTICLE ALSO SAYS GON INTENDS TAKE STRICTER LOOK AT VISA APPLICANTS AND THOSE SEEKING TO EXTEND THEIR STAYS. FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE ARE TRYING TO DISCOURAGE THEM (HIPPIES) BUT WE HAVE PROBLEMS. THEY SHAVE THEIR HAIR, THEY DRESS WELL AND THEY GET A VISA. AS SOON AS THEY COME HERE THEY START GROWING LONG HAIR."

6. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED. ROGERS

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Subject: DRUG SCENE IN NEPAL
TAGS: SNAR, NP
To: KATHMANDU
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005